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NARRATIVE
Of the Proceedings at the
Sessions-house
IN THE
OLD-BAYLY,

October 10, 11, & 12. 1677.

Containing
The Tryals of the two notorious
HIGHWAY-MEN.

AS ALSO
Of several Clippers of Money.

With the Commitment of the Hangman, &c.

And also the number of those that are Condemn'd, Burn'd
in the hand, Transported, and to be Whipt.

With Permission. *Re. L'Estrange.*

L O N D O N: Printed for D. M. 1677.

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The Proceedings at the Sessions for
London and Middlesex.

THe first Tryal was of a person upon an Indictment laid for Murder. One of the Sheriffs Officers being to execute a Replevin for some Goods, takes the now Prisoner, who was both an Appraiser and a Constable, along with him to value the same, and it occasion should be to keep the Peace, for which there happened to be cause enough, the man that had the Goods in possession making resistance and disturbance, and in the Fray his Wife pulled the Constable, who thereupon, as the Witnesses swore, struck her with his hand on the side, of which she much complained, as they said, and about a month after died. The Prisoner alledged, and had several to attest it, that he did not strike her, but only gently laid his hand on her with fair words to put her away; nor was there when she died, any bruise or discolour on her

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skin to be seen; that she had often been abroad
very merry afterwards: And likewise he insisted
that she was an infirm woman, and had, as she
declared, never been well since her Miscarrying
of a Child about a year and half ago, &c. So
that after a tedious sitting of the matter, the Ju-
ry, with much reason, acquitted him.

A fellow next was found guilty to the va-
lue of Ten pence, for stealing Sugar out of a
Warehouse near *Barking-Church* by the Tower:
he was discovered in the manner, fled over hou-
ses, and at last found laid flat on his belly on
the Leads.

The most considerable Tryal was of two High-
way-men apprehended at *Westminster* upon sus-
pition, and in one of their pockets a Watch and
silver Tobacco-box, in the others three Rings,
of which notice being given in the *Gazet*, the
Owner now came in and prosecuted. The oc-
casion and manner of their being taken was thus:
Lodging with others of the Gang, not yet taken
at an Inn at *Westminster*, some Gentlemen took
notice of their often riding out and coming in
at unreasonable hours, and inquiring who they
were, was pretended they were bound for the
land very speedily; but suspicion daily encreas-
ing, the said Gentlemen finding them abroad
one Saturday, resolved to watch them all night.
About ten or eleven a clock the two that were
now Prisoners at the bar, came in, and going
to bed, early in the morning they broke in upon
them and secured them. There were here pre-
ferred

ferred two Indictments against both of them for
 several Felonies, which appeared to be Robbe-
 ries in other Counties, and consequently exclu-
 ded them from the benefit of the Clergie, and
 a third against one of them for stealing three
 Rings. For proof against J. S. it was plain, a
 Watch and silver Tobacco-box being taken up
 on him, which were respectively owned by two
 Gentlemen; one robb'd on Horse back near
Blackheath by five persons; the other robb'd the
 day before in a Stage Coach by a like number;
 and both of them swore they verily believed J. S.
 to be one of the Thieves. Against the other the
 Evidence was not so direct: It was prov'd they
 rode out together on the Saturday morning, came
 home again at night together, and were taken on
 the Sunday morning in bed together; that one
 of the Thieves was on a white horse, and he rid
 out on a Nag of that colour, &c. However he
 was brought in not guilty on both these Indict-
 ments, as likewise on the third for stealing of
 Rings. It seems he meets with a silly old wo-
 man one evening in drink, and perceiving she had
 good Rings, carries her first to a Confectioners
 and gave her Sweet-meats, then to a Tavern
 where he laid her to sleep, and so went off with
 her three Rings. But he insisting that she gave
 him them, and she, by her own confession, ap-
 pearing to have been insensible, the Jury did not
 think fit to find the Felony against him. As for
 J. S. he was convicted on both the Indictments
 charged upon him, and was not

as a great or small to keep
 all

Not

where were delivered to
 the

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Not could the other escape for there was soon
 after exhibited an Indictment against them both
 for a Robbery committed on the Highway Sep. 8.
 in the Parish of *Southern*, near a place called
Posters Bar in the County of *Middlesex*. Upon
 which a Gentleman's Servant gave evidence that
 his Master was robb'd of a Watch, Riding-scarf,
 Sword, Belt, &c. and swore positively that the
 said *T* was one of the Highway-men: whereupon
 on he was found guilty, but no certain proof
 appearing of his Companion's being in this Ad-
 on, he was brought in not guilty.

'Tis sadly known how common that mischie-
 vous crime of Counterfeiting, Clipping, and Falsi-
 fying of his Majesties Coin is become is most parti-
 to the great abuse of all good Subjects. For these
 offences there were no less than Three several
 persons tryed this Sessions: The first a young
 Lad, Apprendice in *London*, who by I know not
 what ill Tutor, had learn'd a trade he was never
 bound to, viz. Clipping, which he practis'd
 on Sixpences, and putting off several of them to
 a neighbouring Tradesman, he acquainted his
 Master, who examining him, he confess'd the
 Fact, as the effect he like wife did at the Bar, and
 for want of a more doct High Trial, though tried
 through the compassion to his Youth and Simplicity
 you may have Mercy extended to him
 waiting old man, accused by his
 City, with his Daughter, who testified that
 they were found in a Purse of money
 one of them to keep, as
 also
 The as-
 and lord and
 there were Clipping
 he delivered to

also in an old pair of shoes, produced in Court: That he often borrowed their Shears (being a Taylors house) on Night and false pretences, and sometimes desired to be private, &c. However, it not being very probable a person conscious of such a Crime, should deliver Clippings, which must infallibly cause suspicion, discovery, and punishment, into the custody of persons almost wholly strangers, the Jury thought fit to discharge him.

The third was a woman, lodging in S. Gilleses. 'Tis supposed her Husband was the person that did actually Clip, and that her business was to get Money in fit for the purpose. It being prov'd that she often chang'd Mill-money for other, but always desired that which was large, on otherwise would not take it; which occasion'd suspicion, and her apprehension: which alarming her Husband, he fled, and cannot be heard of. There were taken in her Lodging abundance of Files, Melting pots, and other Implements of that kind, produced in Court. However, because under such Circumstances, our merciful Laws, in favour of Marriage, are pleas'd to suppose the Wives act to be done by Coercion of the Husband, and that he by flight had acknowledged his own Guilt, she was brought in not guilty of the Treason.

There were two other Indictments about a Gentlemans Servant that was killed in a Fray, which was found Special, and left to the determination of the Honorable Judges in point of Law.

A Marshals man going to arrest a Gentleman, was so rude

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produced in Court
 a thing too ordinary with many of those kind of people)
 as to strike all that stood in his way; and amongst the rest
 a Child in a Gentleman's arms on the head; to that languish-
 ing of that blow about a month, it died for which he was
 convicted of manslaughter.

Two poor Country-fellows, having made shift to mount
 each of themselves on a stolen Horse in the furthest part of
 Essex, riding up to London on them, one of the Owners pur-
 suing, got before them, and leaving notice at New, they were
 there stoppt, and confess the matter before the Justice, as they
 likewise did now in Court very ingenuously: And so were
 found guilty.

A Fellow coming into an Alehouse in Westminster with a
 woman he call'd Daughter, calling for Drink and Brandy,
 they made shift to get up sayns, and take away Goods to the
 value of Twenty pounds. Then he pretends to fall asleep,
 whilst the woman goes away, and being awakened, nothing
 was found about him: so that on that Indictment he was
 cleared; but on another Indictment for a Silver cup delivered
 into his custody to drink with, which was likewise lost, he was
 convicted; and received a Brand in the hand.

There were, in all, Seven persons burnt in the hand; and
 for being too favourable to one of them, contrary to the posi-
 tive Order of the Court, the Executioner was committed to
 the Bail-dock.

Two women and one man were set aside for Transportati-
 on; Three order'd to be Whipt for Petty Larceny.

And as for those that received Sentence of Death, there were
 Five in number: viz. Two Highway-men, Two Horse-stea-
 lers, and One for a Burglary, who was burnt in the hand the
 last Sessions but one.

FINIS.